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Brian McCarthy holds sketch of UFO

Great balls of fire; youth, others, claim UFO passed by

HAVERHILL — Brian McCarthy was sitting at his desk Friday night when he saw it – a red blur in the sky shooting balls of fire.

It hung in the air for a few minutes, then "took off real fast," he said.

"I said 'Come on, Brian, you didn't see a UFO. You saw an airplane or something,' " his mother said last night.

But McCarthy insists he saw a UFO.

McCarthy, 14, son of Gerald and Ida McCarthy, Edgelawn Ave., is not alone.

Several people have claimed to have spotted UFOs over Haverhill in the last week or so.

Local authorities aren't concerned, but an international UFO watchdog organization is sending investigators to Haverhill.

Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, said it's not unusual for a series of sightings to be made in one area in a short period of time.

"They usually run in batches like this," Andrus said.

Marge Christensen, the organization's Massachusetts director, said she'll get in touch with McCarthy.

"You can't just write things off until you talk to the people," she said.

However, she said, "it sounds as though it may be meteors."

About 80 to 90 percent of the reports made to the UFO Network turn out to be things like weather baloons, Andrus said.